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Breaking News

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High tech may offer answer to questions of air traffic safety

Timothy Roberts

San Jose Congressman Mike Honda wants the House Aviation Subcommittee to hold a hearing to examine how new technology, some of which is made in Silicon Valley, can be used to make air travel safer.

Mr. Honda, the 15th District Democrat, serves on the House Transportation Committee and its Aviation Subcommittee. The Transportation Committee met today to hear from airlines about how they've been thrown into financial distress by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The committee heard from CEOs and labor officials urging some sort of federal bailout but it took no action today.

However, Mr. Honda says some sort of assistance for the airlines will be forthcoming.

"Every industry is dependent on a good strong airline industry," he says. "We want to make sure that no one goes under."

But he also notes that some of the airlines were in poor shape financially before Tuesday and says any assistance should take that into account.

The Aviation Subcommittee meets on Friday and again on Tuesday. He also hopes for an additional hearing date at which technology will be the focus.

"The solution could be technology-driven if we apply our creative thinking," he says.



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